

The SWORD of the LORD

Edited by JOHN R. RICE.

"And they cried, The Sword of the Lord, and of Gideon." Judges 7:20

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"Seek Ye the Lord"

By the Late BILLY SUNDAY

(Excerpts from a sermon preached in Omaha, Nebraska, in 1915.)
"Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for we will abundantly pardon."—Isa. 55:6, 7.

This is God's imperative call to man. "Seek ye the Lord."

Joined with that call is the promise that God will hear and abundantly pardon. It is an offer of plenty to those who want, an offer of food for the hungry.

There are no two sides to religion. It cannot be argued or debated. A man cannot give a reason for not being a Christian. He may have an excuse.

God's call is addressed to all. To the millionaire and the pauper, the moralist, the harlot, the drunkard and the church member; to the president in the White House and the coal miner in the mine.

To seek God is man's highest duty and his greatest privilege. That is an address to the moralist as well as to the drunkard. It is an address to the society woman as well as to the woman selling her virtue in the red-light district.

Salvation Is Personal

The first thing to remember about being saved is that salvation is a personal matter. "Seek ye

the Lord"—that means every one must seek for himself. It won't do for the parent to seek for the children; it won't do for the children to seek for the parent. If you were sick, all the medicine I might take wouldn't do you any good. Salvation is a personal matter that no one else can do for

(Continued on Page 2)



Rev. Billy Sunday

How to Be Filled with the Spirit: Wholehearted Obedience to Christ's Soul-Winning Command

By EVANGELIST JOHN R. RICE

"And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him."—Acts 5:32.

Every Christian is commanded, "Be filled with the Spirit" (Eph. 5:18). Obviously, then, one would expect the Scripture to tell us how to be filled with the Spirit. God has definite requirements which He asks us to meet and promises us then that we will be filled with the Holy Spirit, endowed with power from on high. It would be as unreasonable for God to command people to be saved and not tell them how to be saved as to command Christians to be filled with the Holy Spirit and not tell them how to be filled with the Holy Spirit. All that God commands us to do, He makes it possible for us to do. Those who long with all their hearts to do God's will in the matter can certainly find how to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

I think of four Scriptures which name definite requirements for the fullness of the Holy Spirit. They are as follows:

"And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given

to them that obey him."—Acts 5:32.

"If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?"—Luke 11:13.

"For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground: I will pour my spirit upon thy seed, and my blessing upon thine offspring."—Isa. 44:3.

"Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."—Acts 2:38.

At first it may seem that here are four different requirements for the fullness of the Holy Spirit. And other requirements are implied.

Dr. R. A. Torrey in that fine

book, *The Holy Spirit, Who He Is and What He Does*, published the year before he died, gives seven requirements for the fullness of the Holy Spirit, as follows:

1. Accept Jesus as Saviour.
2. Repent, that is, renounce all sin.
3. An open confession before the world of our renunciation of sin and of our acceptance of Jesus Christ, as implied in baptism.
4. Obedience, doing everything

(Continued on Page 4)



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Three Ministers Speak

The Unsolicited Testimonies of Three Widely-Used Ministers—a Missionary, an Evangelical and Reformed Pastor, and a Baptist Pastor—as to the Blessings Brought by THE SWORD OF THE LORD

Through the years we have received many remarkable testimonies to the usefulness of THE SWORD OF THE LORD. Men such as Dr. W. B. Riley, Dr. Louis T. Talbot, Dr. Hyman Appelman, Dr. R. G. Lee, Dr. Joe Henry Hankins, Dr. Jesse M. Hendley, Bishop Derstine, and many others, have written to express their approval or to give thanks for personal blessings received through THE SWORD OF THE LORD. I think we may say that thousands of preachers through the years have written to say how THE SWORD OF THE LORD has blessed them personally and helped their ministries.

Now that we are making an earnest effort to get 15,000 subscriptions in a brief campaign, with a special offer of an 8-month's subscription, 35 weekly issues, for \$1.00, with a beautiful book of 9 chapters, 127 pages, clothbound, *God's Cure for Anxious*

Care

Care, given free for \$3.00 worth of subscriptions, new or renewal we feel that thousands will be glad to know of the blessings THE SWORD OF THE LORD is bringing to the men of God all over the nation. If you only knew how preachers are moved and influenced by THE SWORD OF THE LORD, you would help to send it to thousands of others. Hence we publish the letters of some godly men being greatly used in soul winning who say what THE SWORD OF THE LORD has done for them.

A Missionary in Brazil Writes

Rev. W. Clyde Hankins of Caixa 47, Ponta Pora, Mato Grosso, Brazil, is a missionary giving his life to soul winning. He is a brother of Dr. Joe Henry Hankins, noted evangelist. Brother Hankins writes:

"THE SWORD OF THE LORD
(Continued on Page 6)

THE GLORY OF THE SOUL--WINNING LIFE

By EVANGELIST JESSE HENDLEY

(Message given at Evangelistic Conference, Bob Jones University, Greenville, South Carolina, June 18, 1948. Mechanically recorded for THE SWORD OF THE LORD.)

"I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry. For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing. Do thy diligence to come shortly unto me: For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia. Only Luke is with me. Take Mark, and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministry. And Tychicus have I sent Ephesus. The cloke that I left at Troas with Carpus, when thou comest, bring with thee, and the books, but especially the parchments. Alexander the coopersmith did me much evil: the Lord reward him according to his works: Of whom be thou ware also; for he hath greatly withheld our words. At my first answer no man stood with me, but all men forsook me: I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge. Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion. And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever."—II Tim. 4:1-18.

Here is a man facing the headsman's ax. He has established churches in all the Roman Empire. He has won thousands of converts to the Lord Jesus. Yet when he comes down to die there is not a single convert about him except Luke.

You, too, will have some of the

people you lead to Jesus turn their backs on you. You, too, will have trials. You, too, will wonder whether or not it is worth-while after all. But it is worth-while! Paul says, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth



By Jesse Hendley

"Seek Ye the Lord"

(Continued from Page 1)

you; you must attend to it yourself. Neither your mother in Heaven nor your wife in the church can save you. Don't say, "I am not concerned." God is concerned for your soul and that is enough. Do not overlook God.

It won't do you any good if your wife is a Christian. You have got to be something more than a brother-in-law to the church. You may say, "I can't understand all that the Bible teaches." Neither can I, but I can understand some of it, and usually the man who says he can't understand the Bible isn't living up to what he can understand. God won't hold you responsible for doing what you haven't got sense enough to do. If I can understand more than you, God holds me responsible to do more than you. If you understand more than I, then God holds you responsible to do more than I. If you seek first the kingdom of God, your understanding will grow.

Don't Need Understanding

You say: "Well, I can't understand how Jesus' dying on the cross and shedding His blood can save me."

You don't need to understand it—believe it. I don't know how it is that putting a seed in the ground will make the seed grow—I don't understand it. We don't have to understand how the food we eat builds muscle, brain and tissues—just shovel the grub down and forget it. You do not need to understand. Why should you demand that you understand God's plans when you do not understand why medicine helps you or why food strengthens you? Trust God at least as much as you will a pancake.

Aside from physicians and nurses here tonight, I doubt if there is a person who understands how the doctor's medicine helps when one is sick.

If you wait until you fully comprehend God and the Bible, you will be in Hell long before you have mastered half of it.

Hypocrites Everywhere

You say, "There are hypocrites

in the church." I know it, but there are many in the church who are not, too. There are hypocrites everywhere. Don't forget that there are hypocrites in the lodges and in the business world. Don't let a hypocrite put you in Hell. Come to God in spite of the hypocrites.

A friend of mine was visiting in a small town and met the hotel keeper, who was mad clear through. He said a man had beaten him out of a board bill and that he was a fellow-Elk.

"Well, you can go down to the next meeting of your lodge and resign," suggested my friend. The hotel man said he would not; he would stay in the lodge because most Elks were all right.

"Why not be consistent, then, and come into the church, even though you think there are some hypocrites there, too?" suggested my friend. You are a big fool to stay out of the church because you say there are some hypocrites in it.

Heaven doesn't look right when you look at it through a beveled glass or when you try to look at it with the Devil's goggles on. Just give your heart to God and you will see thousands of hypocrites outside the church where you see one in there now. Find God and other folks will look a good deal better to you when you look at them through salvation. You will find your neighbor's house will look a good deal better if you only wash your own windows, old man.

The fellow who looks through cobwebs sees spiders all the time. A man who looks at religion through a hypocrite will see only hypocrites. A man who looks at womanhood through prostitution will think all women bad, and if he looks at manhood through drunkenness, he will think all men bad.

Conduct Not an Issue

You say, "I never did any harm." That has nothing to do with the case; conduct is not an issue. There are plenty of snakes in the grass that have never bitten anybody yet. But you wouldn't let your children play with a snake because it had never done any harm.

Nobody would vote to turn a mad dog loose on the streets because it has not bitten anybody yet. There is no difference between being wrong and doing wrong; and the reason you are wrong is because you won't yield to God. The man who rejects Jesus Christ is not right. He may not have any vices, may be a pretty good fellow, but he is not right.

A man gets into the lodge on the password—not because he is a president of a bank. You will get into Heaven because you are a Christian—not because you are richer than your neighbor and can wear better clothes. You can't get into Heaven unless you are born again. You can't walk into Heaven and say: "Lord, I was director of the bank in Omaha," or, "I was the president of the United States," or, "I was the king of England." It is faith in Jesus that opens the door and lets you in, or shuts it in your face. Faith in Christ is the counter-sign that passes all through the door of Heaven.

Successful Christian in Church

You say, "Bill, I can do right and not belong to a church." You say, "I can do right and be a Christian without being a member of any church." Maybe you can; I can't. I have never in my life seen a successful, useful, or helpful Christian who stayed out of the church.

You want all the help you can get. When any man is truly converted, the first thing he will do will be to look for some church.

So you say, "Well, I don't have to be a member of the church to be a Christian." I have known men that could live with a woman they were not married to, but that is not my way. Church membership is not mentioned. "Let the wicked forsake his way." If you forsake your way, you will hunt up a church just as quickly as you can fine one. Church membership will take care of itself.

All delay is but a device of the Devil to keep you from seeking

God. If a promise made to men that they would find gold was one-half as definite as the promise that men will find God when they seek Him, men would spend all their time hunting for gold.

Out in a California desert they have built a four-story building. Not a tree is in sight. You can see the mirage dance here and there. They found a spring of wonderful medicinal properties. The atmosphere is as pure as anywhere else in the United States. They soon had patients from all parts of the world who were trying to beat death.

Men will part with their money or anything they possess if only it offers them hope. Let a medical spring be discovered at any point in the world, and they will journey to it.

If Men Would Seek God

Oh, if men would only seek God the way they seek health, there wouldn't be a sinner on earth today. Like the woman that was healed by touching Christ's garments; for twelve years she had suffered and had given up everything she had, but she grew worse. When she heard Jesus was coming, she didn't give up. She didn't wait to wash her face. She didn't wait to comb her hair, but sought Jesus as she was.

In order to get gold, men will give up everything; no pursuit too dangerous, no risk to hazardous, if it only promises wealth.

All honor to the traveling men who go through the country selling their goods to give their wives and families the comforts of life. But they, too, are seeking wealth, are seeking worldly things. If they would seek God with the same persistency, they would find Him so easily.

Let an accident occur on the railroad — no matter how hazardous — and everything goes on as before. Let an explosion take place in a powder mill and kill three or four fellows — some fellow will walk right up and take his place.

I know of a doctor who lost both eyes the other day experimenting in chemicals. He combined two chemicals and there was a premature explosion in which he lost both eyes.

Look at the girl in the red-light district. Doesn't she give up her virtue, her purity, her home and parents and everything that is dear to her for a few dollars? Won't the saloonkeeper sell his soul to Hell for the few rotten, whisky-soaked dollars the saloon brings him? Won't the robber poke a gun under your nose and shoot you if you don't hold up your hands?

All Seek for Gold

Why? Just because he can put your watch and your money in his pocket. No life is too lonely, no journey is too long, no vigil too great, no labor too hard, no task too repulsive, if it only promises gold.

Another thing men seek after is pleasure. They will neglect their families, business—everything, for pleasure.

Why, people will sell their souls into slavery and sin. They will give up the leisure time that they should devote to self-improvement; they will break the laws of health; they will become invalids and break up their homes.

The failure of men to seek God is what is filling our jails, penitentiaries, asylums, poorhouses, red-light districts, causing vice to triumph over virtue and poverty to flourish in place of comfort.

God Very Near You

I believe the blackest lie the (Continued on Page 8)

The Glory of the Soul-Winning Life

(Continued from Page 1)

I have in mind primarily getting people to sign on the dotted line, so to speak. There are a number of things that may enter into a soul's being saved. Somebody may live a consecrated Christian life before that person. Somebody else may read the Scriptures and pray — there is no doubt but that God

has promised a glorious reward for the person who prays for the soul winner. And in Philippians 1:19 Paul says, "For I know that this shall turn to my salvation through your prayer." "My" ought not to be there. Paul means: If you pray for me, the result will be the salvation of souls. God is going to honor people who pray for those who are winning souls. Nevertheless, my friends, God says that the man or the woman who gets them to sign on the dotted line, who gets them to believe on Jesus Christ, is the saviour of souls. Paul speaks of "Onesimus, whom I have begotten in my bonds" (Philemon 10). He means, "I got Onesimus myself." He writes to Timothy and says, "My own son in the faith" (1 Tim. 1:2). He does not call him the son of his mother in the faith or the son of his grandmother. They were godly; they were prayerful; they taught Timothy, the Scripture says. But Paul declares, "He is my son in the faith. I won Timothy." He writes to Philemon and says, "Thou owest unto me even thine own self besides." In other words, he is saying, "You owe me yourself. I won you to Jesus. You belong to me, Philemon." He writes to the Corinthian Christians and says, "Though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel" (1 Cor. 4:15).

He does not say that others prayed and helped in getting them saved. He says, "You are my sons and daughters in the faith; I won you." He writes to Timothy and says, "In doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee" (1 Tim. 4:16).

A soul winner is a little saviour — like the big Saviour, if you please. Of course it is the big Saviour who does the work. It is the Holy Ghost who sends the power and the blessing. But He has no hands but our hands. He has no tongue but our tongue. He has no feet but our feet. So when we reach people for Christ, we are called saviours of a soul. That is a remarkable thing, but it is all through the Word of God. There is a glory, my beloved friends, that comes to those of us who win souls, those of us who bring souls to a decision, that cannot be had any other way in this world.

The Scripture says, "They that are wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever" (Dan. 12:3). It does not say that those who pray for them, or those who teach them the Bible, or those who live the Christian life before them will shine as the stars for ever and ever. It says "they that turn" them — those who get them to turn, those who get them to sign on the dotted line, those who get them to believe on Christ, those who get them saved — they

shall shine as the stars forever and ever. Oh, listen to me! I want that glory in the presence of the Saviour! I want to shine in His presence over there! But if I am going to do that, I must turn many to righteousness.

I was in a revival meeting in Owensboro, Kentucky. One morning there came into the service a young ex-soldier and his wife. He had just returned from Germany. I did not give an invitation that morning because I felt there were no lost people present. (It taught me a lesson, I hope.) As I started away he and his wife started following me. He said, "Preacher, you are not trying to run from us, are you?"

That broke my heart. I turned around and said, "Brother, I don't run from anyone. If I can help you, I am ready to do it."

He said he wanted to talk to me, and we went into a back room. He and his wife sat down there together. (You could tell they were deeply in love with each other.) I said, "What's wrong, fellow?"

"Preacher, I was married just before I went over to Germany. Temptations came my way and I sinned grievously."

I turned to him and said, "The blood of Jesus Christ cleanseth us from all sin. If you will come to Him, He will forgive you."

Down on our knees we went in prayer. When we were finished, he got up with a sense of the cleansing that comes when a person really sees the blood of Christ. The burden was gone from his heart.

They came back night after night. On the last night of the revival, after we had had a great service, they came up with a long line of other people. I shall never forget that face as long as I live. He reached over, took my hand, looked up into my face, and the tears were just rolling. He said, "Preacher, I will never forget you as long as I live!" How long is he going to live? Forever and ever! Brother, he will never forget that day when the Lord Jesus Christ saved his soul, and he will never forget — as I can never forget — the human voice and the human personality through which Jesus Christ spoke to bring our souls to Himself. Brethren, there is an honor and glory which comes to us in soul winning that will never come any other way. God help us to win souls!

I was in Lincoln, Nebraska, in a revival meeting. One night I preached on sin—I opened up both barrels the best I could. A couple of nights later a young lady came (Continued on Page 3)



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The Glory of the Soul-Winning Life

(Continued from Page 2)

to me at the platform. She said, "Brother Hendley, I must see you," and motioned me to one side.

"What is wrong?" I asked. She said, "You preached on sin the other night."

I said, "Yes."

She said, "Well, I was living in sin with another person." And she told me the whole terrible, sordid story. Then the tears started coming.

I said, "What is wrong, sister? Didn't you come the other night?"

She said, "Yes, I came back to the inquiry room and sobbed my way to the Lord. But _____ says he does not believe I can be saved, that I have sinned too grievously. He says God will not forgive me. What do you say?"

I said to her, "Sister, he does not know what he is talking about. That is the voice of the Devil." And I pointed to that precious verse in John 1:7, "The blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin." When she saw it a smile broke over her face. Her tears were dried and she walked out of there gloriously happy. Later she came back, joined the church and was baptized.

On the last night of the meeting a group of converts came to the little station there in Lincoln, Nebraska. It was about midnight when we got the train to Chicago. As we pulled out of the station they were singing, "God Be With You Till We Meet Again." And, believe me, that is one of the sweetest things that can come the way of a human being—people singing, "God Be With You," as the train pulls out of a station at twenty minutes of twelve! You know they love you because you led them to Jesus.

As I was standing there in that group waiting for the train, a young man spoke to the young lady and said, "What are you so happy about?"

She turned to him—I shall never forget it—and said, "Brother, if the burden had rolled off your soul that has rolled off my soul, you would be happy, too!"

Listen to me! I would rather have the honor of preaching the sermon that brought that precious soul to be cleansed as clean as an angel of light, saved by His grace and ready for Heaven—I would rather have that glory and honor than any glory and honor this world can possibly offer. There comes a glory to those who win souls!

The Glory That Comes to Christ Because of Souls Won

Second, there comes a glory to Christ by winning souls. Jesus Christ in His preincarnate glory and heavenly life had the adoration of the angels. He laid aside His glorious robes, came down to this world and in humility became a babe, born yonder in Bethlehem's manger, born unlike any other person who was ever born.

Then you remember He went to the bloody cross to give Himself in that great atonement.

Up Calvary's mountain one dreadful morn,

Walked Christ my Saviour, weary and worn;

Facing for sinners death on the cross,

That He might save them from endless loss.

Blessed Redeemer! precious Redeemer!

Seems now I see Him on Calvary's tree;

Wounded and bleeding, for sinners pleading—

Blind and unheeding—dying for me!

Oh, brother, listen; when we visit Calvary we will never be the same.

I said that one day over a radio in Chattanooga, and a young man who was about to take his life heard it. Later he said to me, "I had already made up my mind to take my life. You made the statement that if a man ever sees Jesus dying on Calvary he will never be the same. I got down on my knees by the side of my bed

in my room in the Plaza Hotel and wept my way to Jesus." He was saved because he looked full in the wonderful face of Jesus. He could not get away from it.

"What is wrong?" I asked. She said, "You preached on sin the other night." I said, "Yes." She said, "Well, I was living in sin with another person." And she told me the whole terrible, sordid story. Then the tears started coming.

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Finally, just a few days before

one of their biggest games, the father died.

After the funeral service was over—the same day

the game was to be played—the

young man went to the coach and

said to him, "Coach, I wish you

would put me in at the beginning

of the game today."

The coach was shocked. He knew the boy

was a mediocre player, and be-

cause he was a very humble boy

he was surprised that he should

request such a thing. Finally he

thought maybe it was because of

something connected with his fa-

ther, and so he said, "Son, I'll put

you in. But remember this is a

serious game and I cannot leave

you in there very long. I'll have

to pull you right back out in a

short time, but if you want to get

in, it will be all right."

The boy agreed, the game start-

ed, and he was over that field like

an All-American. They never saw

such a game played! He ran the

ends, he bucked the line, he threw

the passes, he kicked—he did

everything that could possibly be

done. They left him in all of the

sixty minutes and he won the

game for his teammates. He play-

ed a phenomenal game and was

the toast of the whole campus.

After the game was over the

coach walked into the dressing

room, walked up to the boy and

said, "Say, son, you've been hold-

ing out on me. What came over

you? I didn't know you could play

football like that!"

The boy said, "Coach, it is like

this: My Dad was blind; this was

the first game he ever saw me

play. I did my best for him."

Brother, listen to me; up yon-

der in the Glory is my Saviour.

Sometimes when I feel like quit-

ting I remember He is looking

down on me. The way that we can

best honor Christ is to get souls

saved because those souls will

praise Him through all eternity.

The Glory of Snatching Souls Out of the Fire

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my beloved friends, in snatching souls out of the fire. In the Epistle of Jude the Scripture speaks of "pulling them out of the fire." They are already in the fire. They do not have to go to Hell; Hell is already burning in their souls. They are in sin. They are lost. They are under the wrath of an holy God. "Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men" (II Cor. 5:11).

"It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." (Heb. 10:31). The wrath of God! I have heard people talk so much about God's loving the sinner's soul but hating his sin that I am sick of it. You cannot separate a man from his sins. "God is angry with the wicked every day. If he turn not, he will whet his sword; he hath bent his bow, and made it ready. He hath also prepared for him the instruments of death" (Psa. 7:11, 13). "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Rom. 6:23).

And that death is not physical; it is the lake of fire, the second death where lost souls will be tormented forever and ever. We are going to live forever—in Heaven or Hell. Don't sell God short. God is a holy God. He says, "Be ye holy; for I am holy" (I Pet. 1:16). God says, "Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels . . . these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal" (Matt. 25:41-46).

As long as the life, that long shall be the punishment. As long as the saints are in Heaven, the unsaved shall be tormented in the fire. If you could conceive of a saved soul's being cast out of Heaven and being forced into Hell, you could conceive of a soul's coming out of Hell and going into Heaven. But it is impossible. Dying time is fixing time for every soul.

'Between us and you,' said Abram to a weeping soul in the flames begging for somebody to come and give him relief, 'there is a great gulf fixed. I can't come. Lazarus cannot come. Nobody can come. Between us there is a great chasm fixed. Death put it there. It became fixed and it remains fixed. Nobody can unfix it. It is the doom of a soul.' All the tears of preachers and loved ones and friends—and even God Himself—cannot change the doom of a lost soul. Brethren, if we can save one, we have done the greatest thing in the world; if we save many, we have done glorious, glorious things. God help us to save as many as we possibly can!

In Atlanta, Georgia, at the head of Peachtree Street there stands a dark, foreboding, horrible building. It is what is left of the Winecoff Hotel. You read the story of that fire. You read it—if you read it as I did—until your mind was whirling and you had to stop reading.

My brother was called to the scene of the fire in the early morning hours. He took his wife down there. While he was busy she stood watching the people jump—fifteen, seventeen, nineteen stories—their bodies screaming through the air to the ground. Finally they had to take her away and later take her out of town for a month. It nearly upset her reason.

I had a friend who worked for an undertaking parlor and who was ministering that night. I said to him, "How was it?"

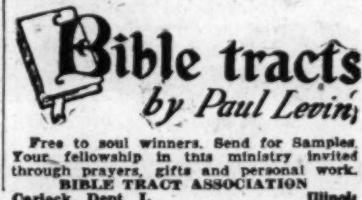
He said, "Hendley, I haven't a vocabulary to tell you how horrible it was. I was working in the darkness of an alley, trying to pick up a body to take it away, when there came another body, splash, right beside me. And I got out of that place. It was the nearest thing to Hell I ever knew

anything about."

You have seen the pictures of those poor souls trapped up there. There were bodies so horribly burned that their faces were literally disfigured and melted by the fiery heat. A little boy came up to a policeman the next morning, and the policeman said, "Son, look up there at the fifth story." The boy looked and there was an arm hanging out of the window with no body attached to it. Whatever happened to separate that body from that arm, I do not know—except that there seems to have been a terrible explosion. A woman, her head gone, blown off as she sat there, was found sitting fully dressed, evidently waiting to be rescued.

"Oh," you say, "preacher, that is awful!" Listen! I know something worse. That thing was over in one horrible night, but Hell is an eternal horrible night. It will never end. And if you rescue a person from that Hell you have done the greatest thing a person can ever do. Brethren, we ought to win them to Jesus, we ought to bring them in before it is too late. It is going to be too late one day. I challenge you, I beg you, I entreat you with everything that is in my soul to covenant with me to make this business the main business of our lives until Jesus Christ calls us home!

PRAYER: Father, how we thank Thee for this holy moment. Help us to be faithful unto death. For Jesus' sake and for the sake of souls, we ask it. Amen.



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How to Be Filled With the Spirit: Wholehearted Obedience to Christ's Soul-Winning Command

(Continued from Page 1)

God commands; that is, the unconditional surrender of the will to God.

5. Thirst, or holy desire for the Spirit's power.

6. Asking, definite prayer for this definite blessing.

7. Believe the promise and confidently expect God to do what He has definitely promised to do.

The above are the seven steps needed to be filled with the Holy Spirit, as Dr. Torry explained them.

Now I believe that every person who meets those seven requirements will be filled with the Spirit, or baptized with the Spirit, endued with power for service; and I believe that those conditions are required in the Word of God. But I believe it will be simpler to divide those requirements into two main heads, based upon two definite Scriptures.

First, in Acts 5:32 Peter clearly says "...the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him." Wholehearted obedience to Jesus Christ is certainly one requirement of the fullness of the Holy Spirit. The other requirement is asking. Jesus said, "...how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?" So in this chapter we discuss the first requirement for the fullness of the Holy Spirit, that is, wholehearted obedience to Christ's soul-winning command. The next chapters will discuss prevailing prayer as a condition of the fullness of the Holy Spirit.

Before we begin a detailed discussion of the conditions required for being filled with the Holy Spirit, let me say positively that certainly regeneration comes before being filled with the Spirit of God. In Acts 2:38 Peter plainly told inquirers that they were first to repent before being baptized and then receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost. If you have not put your faith in Christ as your own personal Saviour and depended upon Him for salvation on the merits of His blood shed on Calvary, then certainly you are not ready even to discuss the matter of being filled with the Holy Spirit.

John the Baptist was "filled with the Holy Ghost even from his mother's womb." In answer to the fervent, earnest prayers of his parents, Zacharias and Elizabeth, John the Baptist, the forerunner of the Lord Jesus, was filled with the Holy Ghost in babyhood. But we know that one could not be consciously a rebel against God, rejecting Christ as Saviour, and be filled with the Holy Spirit. So we judge that John the Baptist was filled with the Holy Ghost in his babyhood and early childhood; then the very moment that he came to know himself a sinner, we believe, he put his trust in the coming Saviour and was forgiven and born again. Then he continued, filled with the Holy Spirit. It is unthinkable that any one could be old enough to be an accountable sinner, and unsaved, and be filled with the Holy Spirit. And it is certain that the Holy Spirit cannot fill one if he does not already dwell in the body in regeneration. If one is not born again by personal faith in the Saviour, that is the first question to settle. It will be foolish to talk about being filled with the Spirit until one trusts Christ and lets the Spirit of God make him a new creature. Salvation is one question, the fullness of the Spirit another. Be saved first!

But after one is a child of God, there are certain definite conditions to be met in order that one may be filled with the Holy Spirit. And the first general condition, which we discuss in this chapter, is that one must be obedient, that

is, fully surrendered to the will of God.

I. This Obedience Would Involve First, Commitment to God's Soul-Winning Plan

When Peter said "And we are witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him," it is obvious that he referred to the power of the Holy Spirit for witnessing, personal testimony, soul-winning effort. How can any Christian be an obedient Christian who does not win souls?

1. Soul Winning Is the Plain Duty of Every Christian

This is made plain in the Great Commission as given by the Saviour in Matthew 28:19, 20. There Jesus told the disciples to go make disciples in all nations, to baptize these converts in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and then to teach the new converts "to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you." Every new convert was to carry out the very command given to the apostles! In other words, any Christian today is as much commanded by the Lord Jesus Christ to win souls as was Peter or James or John or any of the other twelve apostles to whom He gave the Great Commission. Every one of us is commanded "to observe all things whatsoever" Jesus commanded the apostles!

And it was in connection with this Great Commission (though as recorded by Luke), that Jesus gave the apostles commandment to "tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high." Read Luke 24:46-49 and you will see that Jesus plainly commanded "that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem." You will see also that Jesus there told these apostles that they were the witnesses of these things but that they must tarry first in Jerusalem for power before carrying the gospel to the unsaved world. The fullness of the Holy Spirit was simply an endowment of power for the soul-winning work Jesus commanded in the Great Commission.

Forgive me for repetition, but please remember again the promise of Jesus in Acts 1:8: "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you; and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." Power for witnessing is the very object of the endowment of power from on high. And unless one is thoroughly committed to do this one main thing that Jesus has commanded, it would be foolish rebellion for him to seek the power of the Holy Spirit. God would not give the equipment to do the job when one did not intend to use the equipment for the purpose for which it is given.

Some people have foolishly thought that the fullness of the Holy Spirit is given to some people for soul winning and to other people for other purposes. But there is no promise or teaching in the Word of God for such a claim. The endowment of power from on high which Jesus gave at Pentecost and for which the disciples tarried and prayed, was for the one purpose of being His witnesses.

And let us be reminded here that the one purpose for which Jesus came into the world was "to save sinners." This is the one thing dearest to the heart of God, the one thing for which Jesus died, the one thing that causes rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God in Heaven. This is the one thing for which preachers are called to preach. This is the one excuse for the existence of churches! Preachers who do not win souls may have been called to preach, but they have never answered the call to

preach! Every gift among the ministry gifts mentioned in I Corinthians 12 was to be used for the purpose of carrying on the soul-winning work for which God had chosen them, and these were "sent forth by the Holy Ghost." No one can teach the Bible acceptably to God except as he is filled with the Holy Spirit for soul-winning power. We may be sure that this fullness of the Holy Spirit is intended primarily as an endowment of power from on high for witnessing and soul winning.

Churches are to be built up simply to win souls. First Corinthians 14:3, 4 says, "But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort. He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church." But it must be remembered that to edify (build up) the church is itself for the purpose of making the church a more powerful soul-winning organism. Christians are to be edified, or built up, for exactly the same reason that every godly and spiritual evangelist seeks to build up the church—that is, to make Christians into soul winners and to help them to do the thing the Lord Jesus put the church in the world to do. A good example is in that same fourteenth chapter of I Corinthians. Verses 24 and 25 say, "But if all prophesy, and there come in one that believeth not, or one unlearned, he is convinced of all, he is judged of all; And thus are the secrets of his heart made manifest; and so falling down on his face he will worship God and report that God is in you of a truth." Prophecy does bless the church but, best of all, these Spirit-filled ones speaking for God would be enabled to so convict the unbeliever who would come into the services that the secrets of his heart would be made manifest, he would feel his guilt before God and fall down on his face to worship God with a penitent heart. You see that prophecy, one of the ministry gifts of the Holy Spirit, is primarily for the purpose of winning souls and enabling Christians to win souls.

In I Corinthians 12:28 we are told that these ministry gifts, wrought in Christians by the fullness of the Holy Spirit, are "first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps governments, diversities of tongues." It is the fullness of the Holy Spirit that makes an apostle (that is, that made apostles when apostles were needed) or prophets, or that gave any other miraculous manifestations in the church. Ephesians 4:11-16 discusses the fruit of these heavenly gifts in the church. Again, apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers are mentioned, as gifts God gives a church, with the equipment of the fullness of the Holy Spirit. And here we are told that all these—apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers—are for "the perfecting of the saints for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ." Evangelists are to build up the church, the same as pastors are. You can see that if a pastor is to preach to the church, evangelists are to preach to the church, too. And if an evangelist needs the endowment of the Holy Spirit, then the pastor who builds up the same body of Christ, perfecting the saint for the work of the ministry, needs the same fullness of the Spirit.

But that is not all! In the same passage verse 16 tells us that the object of the building up of the church is to make "increase of the body." That is, we are to make increase of the body of Christ by getting others saved! A healthy church is a growing church. A spiritually healthy Christian is a soul-winning Christian. A spiritually prospered pastor is a soul-winning pastor. In the nature of the case, one simply could not be filled with the Spirit and not have in mind the first main duty and purpose of soul winning.

The Apostle Paul would pass very well for a Bible teacher, but he was filled with the Holy Ghost! And with him, it was for soul winning. Apollos was "mighty in the scriptures," we are told, but he was filled with the Holy Spirit; as the Scripture puts it, "fervent in the spirit," that is, in the Holy Spirit, and got many saved. It is noteworthy that at Antioch "certain prophets and teachers" ministered to the Lord and fasted

when the Holy Spirit came upon them and commanded that Barnabas and Saul should be separated to the soul-winning work for which God had chosen them, and these were "sent forth by the Holy Ghost." No one can teach the Bible acceptably to God except as he is filled with the Holy Spirit for soul-winning power. We may be sure that this fullness of the Holy Spirit is intended primarily as an endowment of power from on high for witnessing and soul winning.

I love to teach the Word of God. If I may be pardoned for the statement, I feel that I have more natural gifts for teaching than for the strenuous and fearfully important work of an evangelist. I have to turn down many Bible teaching engagements. But I am certain that all Bible teaching ought to be, on the one hand, addressed to making soul winners out of Christians and, on the other hand, addressed to bringing sinners to repent of their sins. It is noteworthy that the Great Commission says, "teaching all nations," when it is referring to evangelism (Matt. 28:19).

One of the abominations that must grieve the heart of God in this generation is that many so-called "Bible teachers" never have a soul saved. They are content to "feed the sheep" and ignore the plain command of Jesus Christ in the Great Commission. How could such men be filled with the Holy Spirit! And it is small wonder that such people, who themselves have no burden, no passion, no tears, no sacrifice for soul winning, minimize the power of the Holy Spirit and teach people not to wait on God for this endowment of power from on high!

I am saying that one who is not obedient in this main matter of soul winning could not be filled with the Holy Spirit. In fact, one is not an obedient Christian at all who does not put soul winning first.

2. The Obedient Christian Must Not Only Try to Win Souls but Must Also Make Everything Else in the World Second to That Main Command of Jesus Christ

I think we may truly say that every child of God likes to see other sinners saved. I have found that there is something in the heart of a saved person which is warmed and blessed, nearly always, to hear of someone's finding the Saviour. But the sad truth is that many who want to see souls saved are not willing to pay the price to get souls saved. Many preachers would love to see many souls saved in their own ministry, but they are not willing to strike out boldly against sin. They are not willing to warn and chaste Christians to make them willing to do the work God has commanded Christians to do in soul winning. Many people would like to be soul winners but they do not

wish that badly enough to be thought fanatics on the question. They are not concerned enough about soul winning to give up worldly amusements, or money-making, or the esteem of friends and loved ones.

You see, then, that if one would like to be a soul winner but is not willing to put that first in his life, he is not really and fully obedient to Jesus Christ. "A double minded man is unstable in all his ways" (Jas. 1:8). People want the power of the Holy Spirit, but they do not want to give themselves wholly to soul winning. People want the power of the Holy Spirit, but are not willing to pay God's price for His power.

Don't you see that for one to be really obedient to Christ he would need not only to want to win souls, but to want that worse than anything else in the world? I have no doubt that the Lord Jesus wanted souls saved worse than He came to the earth. And the dear heavenly Father who gave his Son felt the same way. And I cannot imagine that Jesus would have left Heaven to found schools or hospitals or orphans' homes. I cannot imagine that the Lord Jesus would have left Heaven to build nice church buildings with Gothic windows and lovely pipe organs and carpeted aisles and oak pews and reverent congregations, with robed choirs and scholarly ministers. I say, the secondary and incidental by-products of Christianity were not what Jesus primarily had in mind when He came to this world. He came to die for sinners! Oh, how dear to His heart are the poor lost souls for whom He died! And He feels today, I know, just as He did when He was here. He wants souls saved! He wanted that more than He wanted the joys of Heaven and the praises of the angels, or ease, or comfort, or anything else. And you are not truly obedient to Christ as a Christian until you come to have a consuming passion to win souls.

I can understand how God would put His blessed Holy Spirit in power on Paul who said, "I say the truth in Christ, I lie not; my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost, that I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart. For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh" (Rom. 9:1-3). All the joy Paul sought on earth and all the reward to which he looked forward in Heaven was wrapped up in the winning of souls. And so will we be when we become wholly obedient in heart to the Lord Jesus who has called us with a heavenly calling and breathed upon us and said, "As my Father hath sent me, even so send I you" (John 20:21).

Obedience is a big word, and God gave Peter the inspired words

(Continued on Page 5)

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How to Be Filled With the Spirit: Wholehearted Obedience to Christ's Soul-Winning Command

(Continued from Page 4)

that God gives the Holy Spirit "to them that obey him." Obedience means that soul winning becomes the greatest desire and purpose of the heart and that one at any cost wants to set out to do what Jesus has commanded us to do on this matter.

II. Baptism Is Often Mentioned as the Symbol of Full Obedience

Is it necessary to be baptized in water in order to be filled with the Holy Spirit? No, it is not always so. We may be sure that what God requires is not an outward ordinance or ceremony but an inward attitude of heart. But one should be baptized, and if one were intentionally disobedient in this, he could not be Spirit-filled. Baptism perfectly pictures the attitude of heart which God requires in those who would be filled with the Spirit. It is remarkable how many times baptism is mentioned in connection with the fullness of the Spirit, or baptism with the Spirit.

1. Four Times John the Baptist Is Quoted as Connecting Baptism in Water and Baptism with the Holy Ghost

In Matthew 3:11 is the record of this saying by John the Baptist, "I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance; but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire."

In Mark 1:8 John the Baptist is quoted again as saying, "I indeed have baptized you with water; but he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost."

Again, the third time John the Baptist is quoted as connecting baptism in water and the baptism of the Holy Spirit which Christ would give at Pentecost, in Luke 3:16:

"John answered, saying unto them all, I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire."

A slightly different saying of John the Baptist is recorded by the Spirit of God in John 1:33:

"And I knew him not; but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost."

Every one of these statements is slightly different. I believe that every one is verbally inspired. I believe that John the Baptist mentioned this matter again and again. He was sent as a forerunner of Jesus. I think that in every sermon that he preached he talked about the coming Saviour. And I think that to every congregation he faced, perhaps, John promised that though he, the baptizer, baptized people in water, the Messiah Himself would baptize believers with the Holy Ghost! How important, then, is baptism, as making clear the condition God requires for the fullness of the Holy Spirit.

2. Jesus Himself Connected Baptism in Water and Baptism With the Holy Ghost

Jesus took up the same teaching of John in many cases. In Acts 1:5 He seems to have deliberately reminded the disciples of the promise they had heard John the Baptist make many times. Jesus said,

"For John truly baptized with water: but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence."

You see, Jesus intended everybody to keep in their minds that there are some things about the baptism in water which are con-

nected with the baptism with the Holy Ghost.

3. Jesus Was Filled With the Holy Ghost at His Own Baptism in Water

From the account given of the baptism of the Lord Jesus it appears that immediately following His baptism He was baptized with the Holy Ghost, or filled with the Holy Spirit. Luke 3:21, 22 says:

"Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened, And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son: in thee I am well pleased."

In fact, Mark 1:10 says:

"And straightway coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon him."

It is obvious that God intended us to think of baptism in connection with the fullness of the Holy Spirit. And the Lord Jesus, our example, was filled with the Holy Spirit immediately after His baptism as a sign that even so we, when we have been baptized, ought immediately to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Baptism is the first duty commanded of a new convert. One who is baptized, then, should so meet God's requirements as to be filled with the Holy Spirit immediately for service.

4. At Pentecost Peter Gave Baptism in Water as a Condition of "the Gift of the Holy Ghost"

Any Christian who is baptized and to whom baptism means what it ought to mean would have fulfilled the requirements for the fullness of the Holy Spirit. For Peter in Acts 2:38 said to those inquiring:

"Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."

And the next verse says that the promise is for their children and all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call. In other words, baptism is as important for us as for them, and we are promised the fullness of the Holy Spirit on the same conditions on which this blessing was promised to those at Pentecost.

In this verse two conditions are given. Repentance is given as a condition of salvation. Repentance, a heart turning from sin to trust in Christ, is always required in salvation. Faith and repentance are inseparable and, though the Bible sometimes mentions only one, in the very nature of the case, both are implied. One cannot trust in Christ without a change of mind about Christ and about sin. And that change of mind, or heart turning from sin and from the rejection of Christ, necessarily involves faith in Christ as Saviour. So, the first requirement Peter made of these hearers at Pentecost is that they repent. Repenting, they would be saved.

The second requirement is that they should "be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins." Not baptized in order to get their sins remitted, but baptized for, or referring to, or pointing to, the remission of sins which one gets when he repents. This verse does not teach baptismal regeneration. Baptism is not a condition of salvation. But in this verse baptism is given as a condition of the fullness of the Holy Spirit.

5. It is Clearly Inferred in Acts 19:1-6 That Those Who Are Properly Baptized in Water Should Have Been Filled With the Holy Spirit

In Acts 19:1-6 is a Scripture which makes it clear that Paul expected people who had been baptized, to be filled with the Holy Spirit. He came to Ephesus and found some converts there. They are plainly called "certain disci-

ples." And Paul was surprised to find that they had not received the Holy Ghost since they had believed. They did not even know about the Holy Spirit's power. They had been taught, it seems, by Apollos, a man mighty in the Scriptures and fervent in the Spirit, mightily used in soul winning, but a man of Alexandria in Egypt who had not been present, we suppose, at Pentecost and had not learned to teach the new converts how to have what he himself had—the fullness of the Holy Spirit. So these dozen men were disciples; they had believed, they had been baptized, but they had not received the endowment of power of the Holy Spirit. And Paul immediately took up the matter of baptism. Verses 3-6 tell us:

"And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism. Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied."

Some people very foolishly infer that there was something wrong with the baptism of John. Not so! Not one verse in the Bible anywhere teaches that there was anything wrong with the baptism administered by John the Baptist. It was the only baptism that Jesus Himself had. It was the only baptism received by the twelve apostles. In fact, one of the conditions required of every apostle was that he must have accompanied with the disciples "all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John . . ." (Acts 1:21, 22). John the Baptist baptized people with exactly the same purpose as we, in the Great Commission, are commanded to have when we baptize converts. Baptism is the public profession of men's faith in Christ. So here Paul went into some detail of the meaning of baptism. When they understood the full meaning of baptism and when it to them represented the wholehearted surrender to God's perfect will, the dying out to self and being raised up to a new life in the power of the Spirit of God, they were baptized and immediately the Holy Ghost came upon them.

6. But the Bible Clearly Gives Exceptions: Men Filled With the Holy Spirit Who Were Not Baptized

That there might be no mistake, and lest thoughtless people might believe that the physical rite and ceremony of baptism in water is the thing that secures the fullness of the Holy Spirit for a Christian, the Bible clearly gives us several cases that are exceptions, cases of people filled with the Holy Spirit without being baptized.

In the first case, all those who were filled with the Holy Spirit in Old Testament times were filled without baptism in water. Baptism in water is a New Testament ordinance and ceremony. It has a New Testament meaning. But, as we have seen before, Old Testament prophets and saints were frequently filled with the Holy Spirit, for the Spirit of the Lord came upon them and they were endowed with power from on high for service, prophecy and witnessing.

John the Baptist is another example. In Luke 1:15 we are told that he was "filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb." That obviously means that he was filled with the Holy Spirit before his baptism. In fact, John the Baptist himself was never baptized, as far as we know. He himself was the first baptizer. But he was filled with the Holy Spirit.

Saul of Tarsus, who became Paul the apostle, was saved first and then filled with the Holy Spirit and later baptized. In Acts 9:17, 18 we are told that "Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou

mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost. And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized." Here we see that Saul (after fasting and praying three days and nights) was filled with the Holy Spirit and then "he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized." He was filled with the Holy Spirit before he was baptized in water.

So we must conclude, as the Scriptures obviously intend to teach, that baptism in water is not itself a condition of the fullness of the Holy Spirit. But the meaning of baptism and the attitude of heart which it represents is obviously required of those who would be filled with the Holy Spirit.

I do not know that D. L. Moody was ever Scripturally baptized. But I believe that in every detail of his heart he meant exactly what people mean who are thoroughly instructed in the Scriptures and who follow Christ in baptism, and would have been baptized had he known what was right. You see, it is not baptism itself which fits one to be filled with the Holy Spirit but it is the heart attitude which baptism is supposed to picture, which meets God's requirements.

7. The Heart Attitude Pictured by Baptism Is Absolute Commitment to Christ and Death to Self

When John the Baptist was baptizing multitudes in the River Jordan and it became very popular to be baptized, then Pharisees and Sadducees came, too, to be baptized. But John the Baptist said to them, "O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance" (Matt. 3:7, 8). Obviously one who does not heartily turn from his sins is not fit to be baptized in water.

The meaning of baptism is very clearly given in Romans 6:1-5:

"What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall also in the likeness of his resurrection."

You see the thought here is that when one has turned to Christ and trusted Him, he should reckon himself to be dead to sin. I should say to myself, "This old sinner is dead. The old life is gone. We will bury the old sinner and try to keep him buried away. The man who will live now will be the new man, in the power of Christ and living for Christ. If Christ died in my place, then I will count myself dead. And I will count the life that I live to be Christ's own life." So one who is baptized goes down into a watery grave to bury there himself. There he proclaims to the world that the old sinner that he has been has no right to live, that the old life has no right to continue. As the Lord Jesus was buried and rose again, so the Christian buries the old life and then is raised "in the likeness of his resurrection."

If any man believes, after he is baptized, that he has a right to live his own life, that he has a right to choose where he lives, or the means of his livelihood, or whom he shall marry, or what he shall spend upon himself, then he has wholly misunderstood the meaning of baptism. Anyone who has been baptized and did not mean to count the old life dead and buried, did not mean to live a new life in the power of God, did not mean really to count himself simply alive to God and dead to the old life and the old world, lied to God and lied to every man who saw him baptized!

You see, baptism is a beautiful and perfect picture of self-renunciation and surrender to the will of God and the plan of God. Baptism means the same thing as Romans 12:1: "I beseech you

therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."

Do you wonder, then, that Jesus was filled with the Holy Ghost when He was baptized?

The Lord Jesus, being baptized, offered Himself to die for sinners. He offered Himself not to follow His own will but the will of the Father. He was perfectly given over to the matter of saving poor lost sinners, at any cost to Himself. To Jesus, the watery grave pictured that He would be crucified and would be buried in Joseph's new tomb and then would rise again. And so it ought to mean to every Christian. So every Christian who understands truly the meaning of baptism and gives himself unreservedly to God in baptism should have the fullness of the Holy Spirit. For hence he lives for God's purposes, not his own. And of course we must remember that God's purpose is primarily to save souls.

Every Christian, that is, every person who trusts Christ as his Saviour, should then as soon as possible be taught perfect surrender to the will and plan of God and should be baptized as a picture of his dying to the old world and to self and his being alive to God and to God's plan and work. And then the Christian should be filled with the Holy Spirit in order to carry out the work he has surrendered to do and should be empowered to obey the command of the Saviour to which he has now committed himself.

You see, Saul — blinded and fasting and praying for three days for the fullness of the Holy Spirit — was filled with the Holy Spirit before he was baptized in water. But he had already been baptized in his own mind, in his own full surrender. He had already given himself to Jesus Christ for a ministry far from that place, as he would be sent to the Gentiles. So he was filled with the Holy Spirit because he had met the heart requirement that is involved in proper Scriptural baptism. Then he was baptized immediately thereafter.

III. This Obedience Is More Than Righteous Living, or "Surrender," or Consecration, More Than Separation

I hesitated to mention obedience as a condition of the fullness of the Holy Spirit for the simple reason that people have such diluted ideas of obedience. The obedience that fits a Christian to be filled with the Holy Spirit is not mere godly living, is not giving up worldly amusements, is not simply "the deeper life," nor consecration, as these terms are ordinarily understood.

1. Morality Is Not Complete Obedience to Christ

I believe in holy living. Surely those who want to win souls and those who would be filled with the Holy Spirit should set themselves to please God in their daily walk and talk, yea, in their heart's attitude. But we need to remember that the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees was never enough to get them into heaven, and certainly it was not enough to fit them for the fullness of the Spirit of God! Suppose since you have been saved you gave up drink. You no longer gamble. You do not curse and take God's name in vain. You go to church, perhaps, twice on Sunday and possibly you attend the Sunday School service and the midweek prayer meeting. You live a moral and godly life. But that does not mean that you are fitted to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Obedience to Christ is not merely the letter of the law as observed by Pharisees and scribes.

Nothing could make this plainer than the fact that the perfect and holy Jesus Himself, without a sin or a stain, without one breath or thought that displeased the Father, was yet not filled with the Holy Spirit until He came to be baptized and so publicly proclaim Himself headed for the cross and publicly given over to the Father's will. We are not to suppose that Jesus was less willing before. But the Father had planned for Him to publicly an-

(Continued on Page 6)

How to Be Filled With the Spirit: Wholehearted Obedience to Christ's Soul-Winning Command

(Continued from Page 5)

nounce His ministry and thus foretell His own death and resurrection by baptism. And if the godliness of the perfect God-man, Jesus Christ, before His baptism did not cause Him to be filled with the Holy Spirit, you may be sure that the moral righteousness of any human being is insufficient for that purpose.

So it turns out that there are many "separated Christians" who are not filled with the Holy Spirit. How many Christians I have known who would not attend a picture show, would never smoke a cigarette, who did not have a pack of playing cards in the house, who would not wear extremes in dress, nor do anything else that smacked of worldliness, and yet who never won a soul to Christ! Many, many Christians think it is more important not to wear lipstick or rouge than to win souls! How far they are from knowing the mind and heart of God! How far they are from true heart obedience! I am anxious for Christians to avoid the appearance of evil and to come out and be separate, to touch not the unclean thing. I thank God that I have diligently taught Christians to avoid the dance and the theater and cigarettes and other worldly and hurtful things that would grieve the Spirit of God and would hurt their testimony. But we ought to know that that kind of separation is only an outward separation. It is not enough! One ought to be separated to the business of getting sinners saved, to the business of living Christ over again before men with a holy passion and with miraculous power, if he expects to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Even the Study of the Word of God Does Not Meet the Conditions for the Fullness of the Holy Spirit

The word of God should be the very breath of a Christian. It should be our meditation day and night. It is the Word of God that is able to sanctify us and build us up. The Holy Spirit Himself is to bring to our remembrance the things that Jesus said and to help us understand God's Word. I would not minimize the importance of the Word of God in the life of every Christian. It is our meat and drink, our breath, our joy and the rejoicings of our heart. Oh, Christian, love the Word of God, read the Word of God, learn the Word of God and live it. But we should remember that to know and read and love the Word of God is not in itself obedience.

I know Christians who go from one Bible conference to another, who carry Bibles and mark special verses and get the autographs of all the Bible teachers. I know Christians who diligently make charts to show the order of events in Christ's coming, who try to trace out the bounds of the Roman Empire so they will know the extent of the kingdom of the Anti-christ! I know Christians who enter into excited speculation as to whether or not world events recorded in the newspapers are not the signs that prove the Saviour will return very, very soon! And I am sad to tell you that multitudes of these Christians never win a soul. They are not endued with power from on high. They are not filled with the Holy Ghost. And the reason is this: they are not truly obedient to Jesus Christ. They have not wholeheartedly surrendered themselves, body and soul, to the business for which He died, that is, getting the gospel to sinners and getting them saved. Such Christians love to "gather around the Word," which means that their attention is on the Word itself instead of taking the Word of God as a sword and setting out to fight the battles of the Lord, or instead of taking the Word of God as the bread of life and carrying it to dying, starving, famishing sinners everywhere!

"The letter killeth," the Scripture says. And to take the bare letter of the Word of God and learn it and love it and try to follow it, without a holy passion, without a dying out to self in order to win souls, is in some sense a perversion, an abomination, a hypocritical Christianity. Oh, how will "Bible teachers" meet the Lord Jesus at the judgment seat of Christ, when they have simply taught people the Word of God and taught them to love the Word and to know facts about the Word, but have not taught people to obey the Word in winning souls?

3. Various Deeper-Life Movements Miss the Point of Wholehearted Obedience to Christ's Command

Months ago I was in a great city-wide revival campaign. Thirty or forty churches and their pastors had united and had invited me to come and lead them in a campaign in a great city auditorium. Thousands of people came. Hundreds of souls found Christ as Saviour.

At the same time a little group in that city carried on regular "Bible classes" and "prayer meetings." They prayed for "the deeper life." They told of how earnestly they searched their own hearts. They criticized very severely others who were not of their movement and did not meet in their prayer meetings. They talked of "the crucified life" and "the deeper life." But I was astonished when one of their number told me that they were entirely too busy in seeking the deeper life and learning the mysteries of God's Word to attend the revival services. So they carried on their little group meetings, they scorned the other Christians who did not live "crucified lives" and did not understand "the deeper life" but never lifted a finger to get sinners saved! I wonder, oh, I wonder how their prayers sounded to God who gave His Son to save sinners?

Do you suppose I am speaking of some strange and fanatical talk, some false religion? Oh, no! These of whom I speak were members of the churches which were united in this great revival and soul-winning effort. They were orthodox in the principal doctrines of salvation by the blood, the deity of Christ, the inspiration of the Scriptures and Heaven and Hell. But I sadly fear that all their talk about a deeper life was an abomination to God and that there was a secret and hateful rebellion in their hearts, since they did not give themselves to the one main command that Jesus had left them. They did not win souls! They were not burdened about sinners being saved.

Everywhere I go I find people who boast that they are sanctified, or they rejoice in public testimony that they have "received the baptism." But with all the solemnity of my soul I press upon your heart this solemn truth: any kind of "sanctification" or "baptism" or "separation" or "consecration" for "deeper life" that does not make soul winners is essentially still rebellion against Jesus Christ! What an abomination to God are all our fine-spun doctrines and our boastful claims if we do not seek with all of our hearts to do the one main thing He has left for us to do!

You see, surely, that many of the consecration movements and deeper life movements have failed utterly to understand the mind of God and the will of God for His people. Until one is wholly given up to soul winning as the main business in life, he is not an obedient Christian. And such an one, not obeying from the heart the Lord Jesus and giving himself wholly to this soul-winning business, certainly cannot be filled with the Holy Spirit

while that obedience is lacking.

IV. What Obedience Means

What does it mean to so obey Christ that you may be filled with the Holy Spirit? I will briefly summarize what I believe is involved in this obedience.

1. First, the Christian Should Make a Definite, Once-For All Surrender of Himself to Christ

Promise the Saviour that you here and now resolve to follow His will at any cost the rest of your life. Resolve that in every particular, large and small, as soon as you know the will of Christ you will try to do it. Nothing less than that could satisfy Jesus Christ. Oh, I cannot say that I have lived up to that vow. But with all my heart I made it! And then I have made it again and again and again! I want to do the will of Jesus Christ. Oh, if He but give me grace, I will, I will do what He wishes me to do, when He shows me His will.

Some people have more light than others. Every Christian will gain more light daily as he follows on to know the will of Christ and to do it. Light will come from the study of the Word of God.

Light will come from the clear leading of the Holy Spirit. But every Christian, to be wholly obedient to Jesus Christ, must resolve that as fast as he can learn the will of Christ he will do it at any cost, in every particular.

I do not say that in his living any Christian can perfectly fulfill all the will of Christ. At least I do not claim for myself and I do not believe that any other Christian that I know has a right to claim that he has, in every particular, pleased the Lord Jesus.

But I know that I want to please Him. I know that it is the deepest passion of my soul to do the will of Jesus Christ. May He give me more grace to fulfill what my heart offers and longs to do.

2. Second, the Christian Should Give up Every Known Sin, Renounce It Completely

I do not say that I live above sin. But I certainly say that I have had my fill of sin and do not want to sin. I hate sin and avoid it. Thank God for the victory He gives me! I ought to have more perfect victory. But certainly I must say, if I claim to be obedient to Christ, that I will not willingly continue in anything in the world that grieves my Saviour.

And this missionary who first started out to scan briefly THE SWORD OF THE LORD, or read a little article here and there, now reads every sermon and article, and goes back to read old issues, and says, "I have read and taken to my own self the great sermons I have found in your paper, and I have unashamedly preached them to others in Portuguese." Thank God for this soul-winning missionary! How happy it makes us to feel that we could give encouragement to a man on the far-off front line of the battle and assist his ministry through the pages of THE SWORD OF THE LORD! How wonderful it would be if every Bible-believing missionary on the foreign fields could be sent THE SWORD OF THE LORD by some loving friends!

Three Ministers Speak

(Continued from Page 1)

means more, I believe, down here, than it means back there at home. Here we have fewer publications, no radio, no daily or weekly newspaper—but never miss an issue of THE SWORD. Frankly, I started out reading, or scanning an article or a sermon here and there—now I read it all, and have gone back and dug out the copies I had thus scanned, to really read them. I have read and taken to my own self the great sermons I have found in your paper, and I have unashamedly preached them to others in Portuguese.

"Right now I am in an eight-day meeting in Camapuan, about two hundred miles from home. Tonight was the fifth night of the meeting and thus far forty-eight people have professed faith in Christ as Saviour. The Catholics are celebrating St. John's week—music, eating, drinking, gambling and shooting fireworks—but the crowds are turning out to hear the gospel.

"I shall not be able to mail this until after the meeting closes, so will give you the final results according to what God sees fit to do then. He surely has been generous with His power these days.

[Later] "Well, I felt led to stay here through Sunday (today) the 27th. The meeting closed with eighty-one professions of faith in a church of forty-two members—one young man called to preach."

"Eighty-one souls saved in a half-heathen Brazil city, in revival services sponsored by a little mission church of forty-two members! And this missionary who first started out to scan briefly THE SWORD OF THE LORD, or read a little article here and there, now reads every sermon and article, and goes back to read old issues, and says, "I have read and taken to my own self the great sermons I have found in your paper, and I have unashamedly preached them to others in Portuguese."

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A Pittsburgh Pastor Tells of the Influence of the Sword Literature and Work on His Life

Rev. J. O. Gilbert, Pastor of St. Peter's Evangelical and Reformed Church, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, writes a most kindly letter which

rejoices the editor's heart. He tells of blessings received at the Sword of the Lord Conference on Evangelism at Winona Lake (now to be at Lake Louise, Toccoa, Georgia, August 1-8). He tells of blessings of the paper "and of other literature that we spread by means of THE SWORD OF THE LORD. Read his letter and then see if you do not feel impelled to send THE SWORD OF THE LORD to a group of earnest pastors whose lives may be revolutionized by it, as have been the lives of so many others. Our brother, Rev. J. O. Gilbert, writes: 'Dear Dr. Rice:

"I have been wanting to write you for a long time to express my sincere appreciation to you for the wonderful blessing which your ministry brought to my life and ministry. I met you last summer at the Sword Conference in Winona Lake and have been fully reborn since those memorable days.

"With all my heart I pray God's blessing upon you and the wonderful work you are doing. I am only so sorry that I cannot afford the trip to the Sword conference this year, but my heart will be with you. I appreciate so much all your literature, and especially the fine work you do in THE SWORD newspaper. I give subscriptions where they are needed as fast as I can afford it.

"I have used some \$200 worth of your kind of literature in the past year in my large downtown church here in Pittsburgh, and it has helped to revolutionize my pastoral work. I have had over eighty persons accept Christ in the past ten months of my pastorate here. I owe most of it to your zeal and spirit which came into me fully at the Sword conference. God bless you for it all.

"May the coming summer bring you and your staff the rich blessing God has prepared for His faithful servants. You have helped make me rich in Him, and I am truly grateful. I remain,

"Gratefully your friend,"
(Signed) J. O. Gilbert

We are hoping to have offers to send THE SWORD OF THE LORD to Bible-believing preachers all over the American continent. Is there no one who loves God enough to send THE SWORD OF THE LORD to all the pastors of your own denomination in your own state? Surely God wants to raise up a hundred laymen who will send THE SWORD OF THE LORD to 10,000 more ministers! Think of the thousands of souls which pastors would win through this stimulation and encouragement and inspiration of THE SWORD OF THE LORD. Think of the soundness in the

(Continued on Page 7)

the Holy Ghost at His baptism.

So I would say to anyone who seeks to be filled with the Holy Spirit, set out to win souls! And as you cry to God with deep longings of soul for His fullness, let your tears be shed, too, for sinners and earnestly try to win them. Remember this, that the fullness of the Holy Spirit is never given except for soul-winning testimony and service, and one of the best ways you could prove your obedience is to trim all your sails for this destination and commit yourself in obedience to the soul-winning business.

4. And This Obedience Involves Heartbroken, Prevailing Prayer

There is a sense in which you cannot separate the two conditions—whole-hearted obedience and prevailing prayer—for if one obeys the Lord Jesus, how can he avoid pleading for this power of God? So, I would set out to surrender to the perfect will of God in every detail of my life. I would forsake every known sin and commit myself to the death of every ambition and thought and dream that was not in the will of God. I would prepare myself and school myself in soul winning. But then one who will obey Christ must wait on Him with longing of soul until the fullness be poured out and until the breath of Heaven gives the supernatural endowment for soul winning.

Three Ministers Speak

(Continued from Page 6)

faith, the assurance of salvation, the boldness in preaching the Word of God which would come to many of the ministers for whom you might subscribe. We beg you in Jesus' name to help us get THE SWORD OF THE LORD to other godly ministers.

A Baptist Pastor Tells How THE SWORD OF THE LORD Enriches His Life and Ministry

Yesterday Rev. Frederick Harold, pastor of Thomastown Baptist Church, President Akron Area Ministers Fellowship and chairman of the union revival campaign in which I am preaching just now, said he would like to give a testimony before the large audience about THE SWORD OF THE LORD. On his own suggestion he gave the following testimony:

"THE SWORD OF THE LORD has been such a blessing to me that I should like to tell others about it. When my wife comes in to clean up my study and asks me, 'What about this stack of papers?' I tell her, 'No, you can throw out every book in my library but one, before you throw out that stack of Swords of the Lord.' I mean that the teaching and preaching in THE SWORD OF THE LORD have been more help to my ministry than all the books in my library except the Bible and one other book."

And that testimony gives you an idea how thousands of preachers would treasure this weekly paper, to be inspired to a deeper prayer life and more boldness in preaching and to be helped in their understanding of the Word of God and definitely encouraged in soul winning.

FREE! Beautiful Comfort Book, "God's Cure for Anxious Care"

We have set aside 5,000 copies of my newest book to give absolutely free during this subscription campaign. For every \$3.00 worth of subscriptions at this special rate, we will send a copy of this lovely book. There are nine chapters, 127 pages. I have worked for years writing the chapters in this book. Now I am sending it out, expecting it to bring encouragement, comfort, faith and joy to thousands. It is bound in dove colored cloth, printed in belem red. Inside the book, front and back, the end sheets (fly leaves) present a lovely pastoral scene of birds and lilies, to remind us that the God who clothes the lilies and feeds the birds will care for His own. We believe the book is the most beautifully printed and bound we have ever published. And then it is covered and protected by a beautiful jacket. I am sure you want the book and I want to give it to you free. You may have a copy by return mail just for sending \$3.00 worth of subscriptions. Send three 8-month subscriptions at \$1.00 each, or send one 24-month subscription for \$3.00, and the book is yours. Or we will send two of the books free for \$6.00 worth of subscriptions, three books for \$9.00 worth of subscriptions, etc. It is a beautiful gift book, and you should have extra copies at hand as gifts to shut-ins, a remembrance to a kind hostess, birthday presents, etc.

I believe that one of the greatest things that a Christian can do for the reviving of the churches, for the saving of souls, and the blessing of Christians everywhere is to get THE SWORD OF THE LORD in the hands of the men of God, the Bible-believing preachers in America.

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Again we plead for a hundred laymen who will send a hundred subscriptions for THE SWORD OF THE LORD to ministers. Will you not send it to the pastors of your denomination in your state? And if you cannot send it to all the pastors in your state, perhaps you will send it to one hundred ministers, or fifty, or to ten. And if you do not have the

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SOME GOOD IN THE MOVIES

I think I know the protest that some of you are making in your mind. First, someone says that the movies are not all bad. And that we admit. Some epic stories are filmed in the movies, some beautiful scenes are prepared, some strong characters are depicted, some good morals are taught. Notice I said some. Also, there is some good bread in the garbage can, some good water goes down the sewer, and there is some good in nearly anything you can mention. I knew a bootlegger who loved his daughter and was kind to his wife when he wasn't drunk. Confucianism has some good virtues. Stinking dead dogs sometimes have pretty white teeth. False prophets appear in sheep's clothing very attractively, and Satan's ministers appear as beautiful angels of light! Yes, there is some good, we suppose, in the movies. But that good is so contaminated and mixed with evil that it becomes deadly poison. Just a little phosphorus on perfectly good bread will poison rats. And we dare not let our children feed on the bread they find in the garbage even if it appears good. There is gold in sea water, but it is not worth getting out, and neither is the good in the movies enough to repay for the danger and evil and certain disastrous results.

From the book, *What Is Wrong With the Movies?* by Evangelist John R. Rice.

"WHY DO I NOT SEND IN SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR THE SWORD"

Are these the reasons why you have not sent in subscriptions for friends and loved ones during the subscription campaign? Check these reasons and the answers, please.

1. "I can't afford it!" Many of you spend enough for cigarettes or cigars in three or four days, to send a subscription for 8 months, 35 weeks, with over one hundred gospel sermons! What you spend for one big meal for the family would send THE SWORD OF THE LORD, the bread of life, to three families for 35 weeks!

One filling of the gas tank of your car would pay for three subscriptions.

You could send a subscription to a family to bless and help them for 8 long months for the price of:

1 pound of candy.
1½ pounds of beef steak.
Movie tickets for two.
Four malted milks.

Nearly every one who reads THE SWORD OF THE LORD could pay for a subscription to a friend with the Lord's tithe of the income of one good working day.

Shame on anybody who does not love the Lord Jesus enough to spend a little money, even if it takes sacrifice, to get out the gospel! One man in Greenville, South Carolina, quit cigarettes and saved \$100 for the year and so sent subscriptions to one hundred families with the cigarette money!

2. "Why Send THE SWORD OF THE LORD to people who may not want it?" Most people do want it! Thousands of people have written us gratefully because someone—they knew not who—sent them THE SWORD OF THE LORD. But suppose some people do not receive the gift gratefully. What then? Jesus died for people who did not want Him. Every preacher offers salvation to people who will not take it. If some do not appreciate the gift, others do. Christians must sow beside all waters, for Jesus' sake. Where is your faith?

"Words cannot express what a blessing and help THE SWORD OF THE LORD is to me and my family. I want you to know that I thank God for each of you that has a part in this wonderful work for Jesus."

"Put me on your prayer list that God will use me and strengthen me spiritually. May God continue to richly bless you is my prayer and hoping by God's help to see you at Lake Louise the 1st of August."

"Yours in Christ,
M. W. C."

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Prices Go Up August 1!

On August 1 we are having to raise the prices on quite a few of our books. This is your last warning for you will have to send in that order immediately in order to take advantage of these low prices. Production costs are climbing and though we regret it, we must raise the prices on these books in order to pay for them. But remember, you have only one week in which to get your order in! After August 1 we cannot fill orders at these prices! Mail your order now. It must be postmarked before midnight July 31. Send your order Air Mail if you live at a distance, but take care of it at once, in order to buy the books at the low rates.

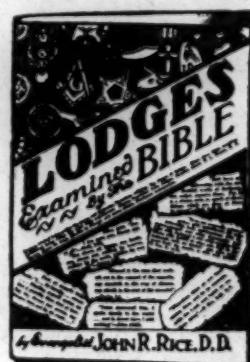
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"Seek Ye the Lord"

(Continued from Page 2)

Devil ever persuaded man to believe is that God is hard to find. God is nearer to you tonight than the friend by your side, and He is easily found when you seek Him with a willing heart.

And God can only be found when you seek Him with the same earnestness that men looking for wealth seek gold; and whenever a man has failed to find God it was because he was not willing to forsake all sin.

There is such a thing as seeking anything too late. Many a man has died on the operating table from appendicitis because he waited too long before he went to the surgeon. Many a person has died from consumption that might still be on earth if he had not been negligent. Many a man is in Hell tonight because he delayed too long in seeking God. Don't forget that all delay is caused by the Devil.

Seeking God Last Thing

Seeking God should be the first part of a man's life, and yet it is the last thing that some men do before an undertaker calls for them. It is better that you all your days be filled with pain and all your nights with distress than to miss Heaven at last. Let me have the worst I can get on earth and a surety of Heaven at last and I will take it in preference to the best on earth and Hell at the end. Give me a quiet claim to earth and all that is in it and I would not give up my faith in God.

We lay aside everything and seek health when we find it failing. Men will give up home and business and turn their backs to wife, friends and children. No sacrifice is too great if it only promises to put the bloom of health on your cheeks and elasticity in your step and endurance in your brain. Men will sleep out of doors in zero weather, give up their homes and loved ones, if it will but restore them to health when dying from consumption.

Trying to Beat Death

I was preaching up in Minnesota some years ago and was going to fill an engagement one morning. The thermometer registered twenty-two below zero and the snow was about a foot deep.

There on the veranda of a splendid mansion sat a fellow wearing a fur coat, felt boots, a beaver cap and a pair of fur mittens. I turned to my companion and said, "Is that fellow crazy? What is he doing there?"

"Oh," he replied, "that is a consumptive trying to beat the game."

Will Give Much to Ambition

"Seek ye the Lord"—not health. "Seek ye the Lord"—not gold. "Seek ye the Lord"—not pleasure.

Another thing men seek is ambition. Let a man become ambitious and he is spoiled for everything but one thing. There is many a man that will sell his soul to the Devil to be elected to some whisky-soaked office that won't pay a thousand a year. They will pour out money like water, and turn night into day, in order to be elected. Men after election will pry off the lid, let virtue lie bleeding in the streets, permit vice and crime to flourish just because they have sold themselves for office to the rotten gang who controls things in their communities.

Columbus said, "I will sail west and get to India." The people said, "You are crazy." Columbus knew better. He went around to get people to stake him for the voyage. At last, Ferdinand and Isabella pawned their jewels to raise the money for the voyage.

He said west; yet, instead of discovering India, on that October morning, Columbus landed on the shores of a new world.

Audubon, the great naturalist, spent twenty years studying and writing about birds. Rats got into his manuscript and ruined it all. Audubon, not discouraged, spent another twenty years compiling another work on birds that to this day is the last word on birds. It was a worthy ambition. But what would be the result if men sought God with the same zeal?

But what about God's Word? Many a person has said, "Seek ye

the Lord." You may go to the doctor, only to have him shake his head. After awhile many a person has gone, only to be disappointed. Many a person has sought life under the surgeon's knife, only to find the undertaker instead. Many a person has devoted his life to seeking gold, and never found it.

Never Disappointed

Ambition may fail, but they that seek the Lord are never disappointed. There has got to be a change of heart. But you can't live with the Lord on Sunday and start to live with the Devil on Monday morning.

You must forsake your old company and your old ways. When I was playing baseball after I found God I used to stay in my hotel room and read my Bible instead of going out with the other players. It took grit to do it, but I had to forsake my old ways if I was to remain true to God.

I was preaching one time in Little Hell, Chicago, and a dirty, unkempt bum was in the audience. I asked him if he were a Christian. He said he had been but could not stand firm for God. I asked him why he did not try again. He said he had tried several times and failed. I told him he had one great vice. He said,

"Yes, I drink; how did you guess it?"

"Well, you know any sane man does not have to take two guesses on a pole cat."

That man had sought God, but he failed to seek Him in the right way. He had not given up the one vice that kept him from God.

Best Words Are Little

The best words in the English language are the little ones—mother, home, Heaven, hope, wife, children, God and Jesus Christ.

Let the wicked forsake his way. What is it that makes the man come back to the days of his boyhood? Oh, sail back to the days when you had hope and peace!

Where is there a woman, beaten down in sin, who would not like to return to the days when, pure as the morning dew, she knelt by her mother's side?

That staggering, reeling, jabbering drunkard, helpless and on the way to Hell—and so close to the pit he can see the sulphur and hear the shrieks of the demons—he would like to return and get back to the day when he could look every honest man square in the face.

Oh, the thief would like to get back to the days when he had never reached out his hands to steal the other man's earnings and savings.

Don't your reason and conscience say, when you do wrong, "Go back! Do right!"

Sin cuts like a two-edged sword. It is bad enough if only the sinner suffers; but that isn't all. You have to suffer, but other people suffer more than you. God knows that if you men and women of Omaha were the only people who suffered for your sins, I would be here working and praying for you just as hard as I am. You are not, however. Men of Omaha, your wife suffers for your sin. Your children suffer. Your mother suffers.

Sin Is Two-Edged

It hurt that girl to go down and sell her virtue, but it hurt

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another worse. It hurt that man to sidestep his marriage vows and live with some one on the side, but it also hurts his wife and children.

Sin cuts both ways. It hurts that young man to go into a booze joint and then go staggering and reeling home and breathe his whisky-soaked breath into the face of his mother; but great God! It hurts his mother, too. Nothing is more true than this: "One sinner destroys much good."

The lack of proper insulation of electric wires in the Iroquois theater in Chicago caused the deaths of 660 people; and if the man whose negligence caused that frightful calamity had stood there and mowed the people down with a sword, he couldn't have wrought more woeful destruction than he did by his negligence.

All Sin Has Same Root

All sin has the same root. The man who spat in the face of Jesus Christ, or who threw the rock at him, or who struck Him on the head with a reed, did not cry, "Crucify Him" any more effectively than does the man or woman of Omaha who rejects Him now. All sin starts with the rejection of Christ. Your rejection of Jesus Christ may not cause you to crucify Him, but you are rejecting Him, and there is no place for you over there; so the whole thing is summed up by your attitude toward Christ.

Where is there joy compared to the joy of being a Christian? Say, if any of you men can tell me of a life I can live that is better than the life I do live; if you can

tell of a life by the living of which I can glorify God more and do more for humanity than by living a Christian life, I will live it.

Some people think that being a Christian means you must always be solemn. The Word of God says, "Ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands."

After twenty-eight years I can truthfully say the life of a Christian pays. In Indianapolis, at one time, I was playing ball there and I walked the streets with lots of money in my pocket. Yesterday morning I was starting down to my office. It was 10 below zero. I had my fur-lined coat on and my collar turned about my ears, my sealskin cap over my ears. I felt out of tune, and went down grumbling and growling.

"You know Tom Hudson, don't you? Well, I met Tom carrying a saw horse on one shoulder and a saw on the other. Tom had no overcoat and no mittens on. He was coming down the street singing, 'Jesus Paid It All; All to Him I Owe.'"

"I said, 'Tom, why are you singing a song like that this cold morning when you have to saw wood to keep your home and children and wife warm, and have no mittens to wear?'"

"What do you think Tom said? I will tell you. He said, 'If you want to know what makes me sing, it is the joy of knowing Christ.'"

"Seek ye the Lord"—don't think about it. Do it now. Don't conclude that you will think about it tomorrow. Do it with all your might until you find it. It will be easier for the heavens to dissolve and the planets to stop than that the Lord's words should fail.

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Letter From a Missionary



About Book --

PRAYER -- Asking and Receiving

Today a letter came from a missionary to Nigeria which thrilled our hearts. She had read the book "PRAYER — Asking and Receiving," by Dr. John R. Rice, and had caused others to read it. Here is what she said:

"Dear Brother Rice:

"I herewith wish to express my appreciation to you and my thanks to God for the great help and blessing that your book PRAYER—Asking and Receiving has been to me. I am a missionary home on furlough. Having received such blessings and encouragements while out in Africa from this book, I'd like for others to experience the same. Would you please send a copy of it to:

(Names and addresses of two friends given here).

"About two years ago Mr. and Mrs. J. V. S—— who were on the same station with me in Nigeria received a copy of your book through the Heaven and Home Hour in California. On Sunday nights after our services with the natives we three would gather for our Missionary Sunday Night Service. The phonograph would usually furnish the music and then Mr. V. S—— would read from your book. My, what a spiritual feast and encouragement we received from it and how many answers to prayer we received as a result of 'taking God at His Word.' Oftentimes during the week I'd borrow the book from them, so that when Christmas time came along it wasn't hard for them to guess what I wanted more than anything — my own copy.

"In March I left for furlough. The couple I traveled home with hadn't read your book, so during our joint devotions on the boat (we spend seven weeks on the way) we read it and applied it. It was just what we needed before getting home and facing the heavy responsibilities of deputation work. One of the stewardesses became much interested in the book as well as some of the fellow-passengers, so I decided to leave it in the Ship's Library, for that had very little worthwhile reading material. Consequently, I'm without a copy again and would like to have you send me one."

Thank you, good lady! We rejoice that the Lord used the book to be a blessing to you, and we pray that He may bless many others through you, because you have read the book. We have had many letters telling of such blessing, and we wish everybody knew about the book!

Really a remarkable book, PRAYER—Asking and Receiving has twenty-one chapters, 328 pages of Bible teaching, encouragement to pray, stories of answer to prayer, and answers to many, many questions about prayer. Every Christian home should have a copy, every minister should study and meditate on it. There is a blessing in every chapter for the earnest reader.

The letter we quote is the story of what really happened in the life of one missionary, an example of many, many letters we get. It is the kind of teaching missionaries, pastors, evangelists and Sunday School workers are hungry for. It is the kind of teaching every Christian ought to have to help him live a victorious, successful and happy Christian life. You can be a blessing from the Lord in sending this book to your preacher and missionary friends. And don't fail to receive the wonderful soul-food in it for yourself! Order now.

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